



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

Update News Release

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Ice Harbor lock to reopen for commercial traffic today

Burbank, Wash. – The navigation lock at Ice Harbor Dam reopened to commercial river traffic today at about 12:30 p.m., according to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman in Walla Walla.

The navigation lock at Ice Harbor Dam was taken out of service Wednesday evening when a cruise vessel exiting the lock struck the upstream gate. The Empress of the North, a tour boat owned by American West Steamboat Company of Seattle, Wash., was authorized to leave the lock by the U. S. Coast Guard yesterday afternoon. The gate is being inspected to determine the amount of damage sustained. Corps members have come up with an interim solution that allows the lock to go back into limited service for commercial traffic only.

“The lock will be closed to recreational boats indefinitely,” said Scott Sutliff, operations manager at Ice Harbor Dam.

The investigation into the cause of the accident is ongoing.

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MEDIA ADVISORY: There will be a follow-up interview and photo opportunity at the navigation lock at 2 p.m. today. Any media agencies interested in attending should arrive at the North entrance to Ice Harbor Dam not later than 1:45 p.m. for gate access across the dam to the navigation lock. Call the Public Affairs Office for more information.

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